

Omaha  
8 July 71

Dear Hal,

Re: the Rockville riddle.

Let's define a few groundrules.

Enclosed typescript has text lines numbered, for easier reference.

Anytime we refer to "M-W" we mean: Merriam-Webster International Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Unabridged—which is our personal dictionary we use here.

Please compare my typescript of text with other; that is, xerox you received from Rothstein. If not exactly the same, advise me.

Nowthen.

"horse" (line 2) also means heroin, of course.

"Hashed" (line 10) could in some way refer to hashish.

"Constable" (line 2) has most interesting history. See M-W, p.571.

"Earl George Sande" (line 5) has practically endless possibilities. George Sand was of course not an Earl, but she was a Baronne, and she did have a son. And there was a Karl Ludwig Sand, a German university student who was beheaded in 1820 for the murder of a man he apparently believed was a Russian spy & enemy of "German popular liberties." More on this later.

"R.S.P." (line 6) Jean thinks might have been intended to mean R.S.V.P.

"billingsgate" (line 8) is a gate in the old wall of London; the neighborhood apparently known for foul language...if nothing else.

"Ockie" (line 12) strikes me as similar to Sande in line 5. More on this later. Ocker means usury; ock a Turkish measurement.

Finally: Rockville / Stone / Gravel / Sande.

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You ask, in effect, whether or not I think Thornley could have written the riddle. Sure, I think he could have written it. But that is no more than a subjective response—nothing in the text, as yet, brings him to mind directly. I do <sup>not</sup> the reference to him in the last paragraph of your 7/3 letter to Rothstein & Kelley. Well, do you know where Kerry is now or anything about his recent activities? I did check on "Zenarchy" and found that a magazine by that name, edited by Kerry Thornley and John Overton, had been announced sometime in 1968. I've never seen the journal, though—and it may not have held together even long enough to produce a first issue. Address I found: 2803 Marlin, Tampa. John Overton unknown to me.

Just a second. Fifth Edition of Directory of Little Magazines & Small Presses (1969) does have a listing, as follows:

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p.2

ZENARCHY, Church of the Laughing Christ,  
Kerry Thornley, Ho Chi Zen, eds., 2803  
Marlin Ave., Tampa, Florida. free; sporadic,  
100 circ; 1 page; (founded) 1968; 8½x11;  
mimeo, offset; Reports reasonable. No payment.  
(editor's statement): "A religious literary  
bulletin of political necrophilia. To subscribe,  
send a batch of stamped, self-addressed business  
envelopes. Our purpose: to glow the universal  
mind." (p.56)

However, Sixth Edition of the Directory (1970) carried no entry  
under that title. The quote in the 1969 entry copied above is  
probably from Kerry, but the rather self-conscious puffery of  
the rhetoric is very common among little magazine people. I've  
read at least a thousand others that are similar in tone to this  
"statement of purpose." Nothing unusual about it, on the surface,  
but, as I say, I've never seen/read this particular journal.

Speaking of Thornley, though. There was an issue of INNOVATOR  
(April 1965) that supposedly had a piece of his called "Comrade  
Oswald and the Holy Cause of Mankind." I'd like to read it if  
you have a copy in your files.

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Sure, glad to buy a copy of Frame-Up from you. Check enclosed.  
Thanks for the offer of selling at your cost...but can't accept.  
Discount from net is o.k. when we buy from publisher or retailer,  
but not if we buy from the author. One of our eccentricities.

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Rain and cool in Omaha this morning, for a change.

More later—

Reil (and Jean)